

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2007. Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-26 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 1, 13 and 21 being in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in this application, namely Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-26, are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art. Favorable review is respectfully requested.

Election/ Restriction

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Applicants elected with traverse Group I, claims 1-9 and 13-17 in the reply filed January 16, 2007. However, Group I consisted of Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-23, which Applicants respectfully elected the response of January 16, 2007. A copy of the response of January 16, 2007 is included with this Amendment document. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-23 be examined at this time.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7-9

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (US 6,955,777).

Filed herewith is a 37 CFR § 1.132 Declaration of Mr. Govindarajan Natarajan, a co-inventor of Natarajan et al. The facts set forth in Mr. Natarajan's declaration establish the following:

The method of forming a plate for dispensing chemicals described in Natarajan et al. is not the invention "by another".

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-6 and 13-17

Claims 5-6 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natarajan et al.

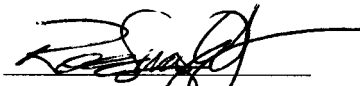
Responding to the rejection of the claims under § 103 for obviousness, Applicants submit that neither Natarajan et al. nor any other evidence of record, establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-26 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosa Suazo Highmour
Reg. No. 56,753
Attorney for Applicants
Phone: (845) 892-9701

International Business Machines Corporation

D/18G, B/321, Zip 482
2070 Route 52
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Phone: (845) 892-9701
Fax: (845) 892-6363